



December 2008

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Old Faces, New Places: Letter from the Director

Officially, this article will serve as my introduction to the readers of the MCDHH Newsletter, but hopefully by now, people have already heard that I am the new Executive Director of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. My permanent appointment became official on August 28 of this year. If you haven't heard that news, the Deaf Grapevine isn't working very well – perhaps we need to call a repair person to fix it?

I want all to know that I have accepted this position seriously and with a great deal of forethought. You know I am not deaf, but I have worked with Deaf people since 1971 in a variety of positions around the country. Begging your indulgence, I will try to summarize what has been, for me, a lifetime of experiences leading up to this opportunity at MCDHH.



A. Barry Critchfield, PhD.

My first experience with Deaf people occurred in 1971 while I was working in Los Angeles as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon). In that position I was simply asked to begin working with "The Deaf" and provided with no training or preparation. I was placed with a Deaf companion and "forced" to figure out how to communicate. Surprisingly (to me) I enjoyed the experience immensely, and when I finished this missionary work I returned to college, determined to become an interpreter. Unfortunately at that time, there were no "official" interpreter training programs, so I selected the nearest major I could imagine at the time, Audiology (I didn't stay in that major very long, after I realized I would have a career in a sound proof booth, testing people's hearing). I was attending Brigham Young University in Utah, and much to my surprise, I learned that interpreters were needed for a couple of Deaf Doctoral students. I recall with some fondness (and a lot of guilt) the experience of interpreting a graduate level Statistics class for a doctoral student while I was a sophomore and barely understood the vocabulary being used by the professor.

Fortunately the students graduated with a doctoral degree, and I eventually did too (with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology). I will always be grateful for the experiences that interpreting provided to me, allowing me to learn about Deafness from the people who really understand – Deaf people themselves. My first job in the field was at Crossroads Rehabilitation Center in Indianapolis. I worked there for four years (1975 – 1979) in a Federally-funded project serving Deaf people with additional disabilities. It was in this position that I first became acquainted with some of the complex issues of being Deaf with other disabilities – especially mental illnesses. Some day when I'm relaxed and in a talkative mood, I should write a video history of my four years at Crossroads, detailing some of the amazing experiences we all enjoyed working with people from 38 different states. Truly a "bootstraps" learning process, but one which showed me the huge gap between the services available to hearing people, and those available to Deaf folks.

After the federal funding disappeared for direct services, most of the excellent staff members "disappeared" too; I decided to enter a Masters program at California State University, Northridge, and participate in the Leadership Training Program there. I was part of the Class of 1979 – one of the last groups to benefit from federal support of that highly successful and influential program which produced a large number of Deafness leaders throughout the USA and the world.

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Old Faces, New Places (continued from Pg 1)

In 1980 I began a doctoral program in Educational Psychology at Brigham Young University, and completed the program in August, 1982. As I saw my education coming to a completion, I realized I would need to locate a “job” as soon as possible, with a wife and 3 children depending on my income for our family’s support. I was fortunate to land a position at the Louisiana School for the Deaf, and in August 1982 we moved to Baton Rouge. In Louisiana I learned much about Cajun culture, about Usher Syndrome and how to enjoy Louisiana cooking. The food service staff at this school were outstanding cooks, and the food was excellent. I’m sure I gained about 50 pounds in a single year on that campus, and while I only stayed at this beautiful school for one year, it was a year of growth and experiences that convinced me of the need for mental health services on the campuses of schools for the Deaf, since the population of children being served was changing. This change resulted primarily from the passage of Public Law 94-142 in 1975, and unfortunately (in my opinion) more Deaf children were being placed in public school classrooms with minimal supports and services, while children with “problems” were routinely sent to state residential schools.

In 1983, I had the opportunity to move to the California School for the Deaf in Fremont, which was an excellent move for me and my family. While in Fremont we added child #4 (Spencer), and had many opportunities to enjoy the lifestyle and culture of the San Francisco Bay Area. It is a beautiful campus and a “perfect” climate. We would have stayed in Fremont “forever” if it hadn’t been for the cost of living there. Unfortunately, many thousands of people each year decided to move to the Bay Area, and because of a shortage of homes, the costs increased dramatically. We had to leave California in 1988 to afford to continue to school our children at home, and an opportunity presented itself to move to South Carolina and assume the position of Director of Deaf Services within the South Carolina Department of Mental Health. It was a new position, and one in which I was given the support needed to establish and grow the kinds of programs that I felt Deaf and Hard of Hearing people with mental health problems really need. The program was recognized in 1999 by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University with an “Innovations in American Government Award.” We loved South Carolina, and stayed there seventeen years, during which time our children all grew up and moved on to college and the creation of their own families.

In 2006 the Missouri Department of Mental Health persuaded me to accept a position similar to the one I filled in South Carolina and with the children all living on their own I decided to relocate to Jefferson City. Unfortunately that position didn’t work out as planned, and I resigned from the Department of Mental Health in April of 2008. After that I contacted the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and offered to fill the Executive Director position that was vacant, on an interim basis.

After 3 months of working with MCDHH as Interim Director, the Commission felt secure in offering me the job on a permanent basis. It was not difficult to decide to accept this job. The staff had experienced some recent turnover, but each person knows their job duties and is competent in keeping the office operations moving, even after several months without a Director.

I don’t think I’ve ever had a job that I enjoyed more than I do this one. There is still pressure to get things accomplished on time, and there are plenty of opportunities to interact with legislators, state officials and other agencies, but that is the kind of work I truly enjoy. Making plans for programs to grow, and facilitating that growth is a challenge, but one that is rewarding once the change occurs.

Missouri faces some important challenges right now. Deaf and hard of hearing people still experience barriers and discrimination every day, even though Federal law prohibits such discrimination. No other minority group would be told, in effect, “You’re in prison now. All other prisoners are able to use the telephone, but because you’re Deaf, you may NOT use the telephone to contact family, friends or legal advocates.” If you change the word “Deaf” to “African American” you will understand why such messages are discriminatory. Another common complaint we receive is, “My doctor won’t pay for an interpreter and has told me to find a different doctor.” Imagine if that sentence read, “My doctor won’t treat my illness because I speak Spanish, and told me to find a different doctor.” The problem, as I see it, is that the general public does not equate Deafness or a hearing impairment with such things as race or language, but under Civil Rights laws, they are defined exactly alike.

The Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is charged with the task of providing information, advocating for people when they experience problems, and of course, certifying interpreters who work in Missouri. When problems occur, we all want them resolved immediately but unfortunately, most problems require time for everyone to understand the other person’s situation and needs. Sometimes a simple telephone call can “fix” a problem, but usually it requires education and sometimes political influence for these challenges to be resolved.

A new legislative session is rapidly approaching, and while there are no bills being proposed by MCDHH, we will be involved in the support of bills being filed by other state agencies. The Department of Mental Health has a budget item related to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, and we are in support of full funding for that budget item. As we become aware of other legislative issues that potentially have an impact on Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Missouri, we expect to be involved in the legislative process as requested by the Commission.

2008 Interpreter Conference

The 15th annual Missouri Interpreters Conference was held October 10-12, 2008 at Tan Tar A Resort, Golf Club and Spa in Osage Beach, MO. The conference theme was "We Go Together: Respecting Diversity, Achieving Unity."

Over 600 people attended the three day conference. The conference kicked off on just the right note with a key note presentation by Sandra Rouse, National Trainer/Facilitator for Sorenson Communications. We learned some new vocabulary from Sandra, including what "LIGAGO" (Let It Go And Go On) means and we all felt like we made a new best friend.



Sandra Rouse, keynote speaker at the 15th Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference.

Saturday morning there were over 15 different workshops to choose from, geared to every skill level covering various topics. This year the planning committee decided to do several longer, more in-depth workshops in order to let people delve into a subject and learn more than time has allowed in the past.

After a long day of learning, it was time for some fun. After a deaf story telling session given by members of the deaf community, we went to the hop! The Sock Hop! Poodle skirts and white t-shirts filled the Salon. There were root beer floats, hula hoops, and bubble gum galore! We all know that interpreters have to be flexible, but some of you

brought a different meaning to that word during the limbo contest. Ouch!

Sunday morning brought another round of workshops and an inspiring endnote by John Moore, CEO/ Executive Director of the Deaf Services Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Check out our photo gallery from the Interpreter's Conference/Empowerment Symposium:

www.mcdhh.mo.gov/photoconf2008.shtml

MCDHH Awards

MCDHH is proud to recognize the recipients of its 2008 awards. The awards were presented at a ceremony at the 15th Annual Missouri Interpreter's Conference on Saturday, October 11, 2008. The 2008 MCDHH award recipients are as follows:

Deaf Evaluator of the Year – Ella Eakins

Hearing Evaluator of the Year – Roger Brown

MCDHH Angel – SEMA - Matthew Nutt

Lifetime Achievement - Marcia Brewer

Larry Hoard

Karin Stout-Foster

Employee(s) of the Year - Kim Davis

Angela Graves

Brandon Godinez

Mary Sheridan

Jennifer Thompson

Please join us in congratulating all of our MCDHH award recipients!



2008 MCDHH Lifetime Achievement Award winners: (from left to right) Karin Stout Foster, Larry Hoard, Marcia Brewer with Dr. Barry Critchfield.

12th Annual Empowerment Symposium



**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Panel:
Voices from the Community**

MCDHH hosted the 12th Annual Empowerment Symposium on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Tan-Tar-A Resort. Symposium participants had the opportunity to meet the new MCDHH Executive Director, Barry Critchfield, Ph.D. during the morning session, *"Meet the Director: The Future of MCDHH"*. Dr. Critchfield sparked the participants' energy by showing a video that shares the common barriers and frustrations that deaf and hard of hearing Missourians face on an occasional or daily basis. An open dialogue afforded the opportunity for several participants who shared their experiences related to issues shown on the video, *"Audism Unveiled"*. For those who missed the event, local organizations may contact MCDHH to set up a workshop in their area. This particular workshop may be promoted for groups who desire to seek positive changes within themselves and their surroundings.

The *"Deaf and Hard of Hearing People: Access to Mental Health"* was the focal point of the symposium's afternoon session. MCDHH and the symposium attendees were delighted to welcome our special guest speaker, John Moore, CEO/Executive Director of Deaf Services Center in Columbus, Ohio and moderator, Roger Brown, an Interpreting Operations Manager for CSD of Texas in Austin and former MCDHH Executive Assistant/Staff Interpreter. Additional speakers were deeply appreciated for their participation in two special panels, the *"Deaf and Hard of Hearing Panel: Voices from the Community"* and the *"Professional Panel: Voices from Mental Health"*. Panelists spoke from the heart of the community and revealed their personal mental health experiences, frustrations and the barriers faced in mental health care. They included DeLinda Belanger (Springfield), Ella Eakins (MoAD President), Paul Kiel (St Louis), Jolene Knab (Springfield), Mark Larson (St Louis) and Jane Ross (Springfield).



**Professional Panel:
Voices from Mental Health**



**Questions, Answers
and Recommendations**

Professionals who shared their expertise, procedures and goals from the mental health fields are as follows; from the Missouri Department of Mental Health (John Heskett, Tec Chapman, Debbie McBain, Tom Rehak and Stephanie Winslow), from BJC Behavioral Health – St Louis (Laura Shapiro), from private and independent practice (Marcia Brewer), and from student's perspective (Cathee Wolford). Many of the symposium's audience members participated in the open forum, *"Questions, Answers and Recommendations"*. The afternoon symposium met the objectives of both the Deaf community and mental health representatives, and could not have been made possible without everyone's participation. The common desires for better awareness, services and most of all, a fully accessible mental health system of care for the lives of all deaf and hard of hearing Missourians were shared during the afternoon session.

Fun In The Sun... and Rain...

During the summer of 2008 MCDHH hosted three Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Days at the three major theme parks in Missouri. All in all, almost 1000 people came out for some fun and fellowship! To see a photo gallery of these events, go to: www.mcdhh.mo.gov/photoawareness2008.shtml Please come out in the summer of 2009 to see us! Dates will be announced on the website and through our listservs after the first of the year.

♦ Our first event took place on June 7, 2008. **Six Flags – St. Louis** offered discount admissions to the park, and interpreter practicum students from area ITP programs, guided by mentor interpreters, enhanced enjoyment of the shows. Even the weather cooperated!

♦ July 12, 2008 dawned as a stormy, rainy day at **Worlds of Fun** in Kansas City. The selected shows were interpreted by volunteer interpreters. The sun started to shine late in the afternoon and people came out to enjoy themselves. Even with the bad weather, this event had almost double the number of participants as last year.

♦ **Silver Dollar City** Deaf Awareness Weekend coincided with the busiest weekend in Branson! On August 9, 2008, approximately **500** deaf and hard of hearing people from all over the Midwest participated. It was a VERY crowded day at Silver Dollar City until the rains started in the mid afternoon and washed out the rest of the day.



MCDHH Hosts CDI/CDS Training

MCDHH, Sorenson Communications, and the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) were pleased to provide the Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) and Communication Development Specialist (CDS) Training, October 7-9, 2008 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. Three outstanding Sorenson Professional Development Trainers, Gino Gouby (National Region), Stephanie Clark (Eastern Region), and Debbie Peterson (Western Region) provided this three-day training for deaf and hard of hearing participants

who desired to enhance their knowledge and skills in providing effective communication in situations where a relay interpreter is needed. Such situations may involve relay interpreting for individuals who use idiosyncratic non-standard signs or gestures, use foreign sign language, are deaf-blind, are highly visual communicators, or have the need to maximize their language skills or knowledge.

Individuals interested in obtaining announcements for future CDI/CDS training opportunities hosted by MCDHH may wish to contact: **Kim Davis,**

MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist
Kim.Davis@mcdhh.mo.gov or
 (573) 526-5205 (TTY/VP/V).



CDI / CDS Training Participants

Michelle Weider, Cecily Colle, Jimmy Smith, Deanna Sohn, Jane Ross, Debbie Peterson, Stephanie Clark, Michael Boyd, Lorita Slieter, Gino Gouby, Matthew Gwynn, James "Jimbo" Hick Jr., Linda Lucas, Robert Love Jr., Tim Yates, Shirley Corbett, and Sarah Smania.

Coordinator's Corner

Important Missouri Interpreter Certification System (MICS) Information From Jennifer Thompson, MICS Coordinator

To catch you up on what's been happening, what's happening now and what will be happening soon.

~Past~

A few important changes to Missouri's certification rules have been made this year, and may directly effect you. Effective January 1, 2008, the Skill Level Standards [5 CSR 100-200.170 (9(A) and 10 (A))] now allows MICS Advanced level interpreters to also work in serious medical or serious mental health settings. Interpreters are still required by the Skill Level Standards to "accept, refuse or withdraw from assignments based upon their experience, capability and certification level" [5 CSR 100-200.170 (1)]. Please go to www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/5csr/5c100-200.pdf for the entire list of MICS Missouri Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules regarding your certification requirements.

~Present~

Yes, it is late, but not **too** late to send in your certification renewals for 2008. Provided you earned all your CEUs by Nov. 2, 2008, you are still eligible to renew your certification until Nov. 2, 2009. There is a \$30.00 late fee for renewals turned in between now and Nov 2, 2009. CEU renewals are required in order to renew your license. Please contact the MICS Coordinator if you have questions regarding the MICS [5CSR 100-200.030] or Certification Maintenance [5CSR 100-200.130] rules. For licensure issues, please contact the Missouri Division of Professional Registration, State Committee of Interpreters (<http://pr.mo.gov/interpreters.asp>)

Your 2009 certification cards will be arriving later this year than in the past. **Please do not panic!!** Our software and printer are being replaced, but not soon enough to prevent a delay. We will send new cards to you—hopefully no later than January 1, 2009. If you have moved recently please make sure your address on file is current by filling out a Change of Name and/or Contact Information or by writing your most recent information on your 2008 Renewal.

~Future~

If you have an expiration date on ANY of your certifications, (PCED, Novice, or Apprentice) please make a note of those dates, and schedule your recertification prior to your expiration date. **Please note, the entire process takes about 6-7 months.** You need to plan to get scheduled (2-3 months out), and get your results back from evaluation (3-4 months). Your Provisional Certification in Education (PCED) expiration date may be different than those on your Novice and Apprentice certifications. Please know your dates. If you are not able to find your card, or certificate, please contact the MICS Coordinator, or complete the form on line ([http://mcdhh.mo.gov/mics/applications/2008Rev/Duplicate%20Card\\$5.pdf](http://mcdhh.mo.gov/mics/applications/2008Rev/Duplicate%20Card$5.pdf)) for a replacement.

Moving On Up!

No one likes to move. It's just something we tolerate in order to get to better surroundings. MCDHH faced just such a dilemma back in May. Though it was hard to pack up so many years worth of MCD/MCDHH history and memories, the staff did just that. Then, the task of **UN**packing began! The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is now located at 1500 Southridge Drive – Suite 201 in Jefferson City, MO. The new office is only about a mile away from the old office, though much easier to find! The new environment offers a lot that the old building couldn't. We have a separate area set up for the public videophone that deaf and hard of hearing citizens are able to come in and use. There is also a large conference room, as well as a library area, testing rooms, and storage and waiting areas. If you haven't had a chance to see the new office, give us a call and make an appointment to come on by! We'll be happy to give you a tour!



Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT)

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and Gateway Citizen Corps Coalition (GCCC) conducted another Deaf and Hard of Hearing CERT training at the Greater St Louis Association of the Deaf (GSLAD) on May 16-18, 2008 in Maryland Heights. An additional 13 deaf and hard of hearing Missourians are now properly trained and prepared to get assist others in their neighborhood or workplace before, during and after a disaster. CERT will teach citizens how to identify the types of disasters and hazards most likely to affect their homes and communities. Training is designed to cover disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, triage, treating life threatening injuries, disaster psychology, terrorism, 911 communications, hazardous materials, and responder roles.



Getting Prepared

On October 18, 2008, MCDHH has selected SEMA and Matthew Nutt, SEMA Citizen Corps Coordinator, to receive the *MCDHH Angel Award*. The ceremony is held in conjunction with the annual Missouri Interpreters Conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. Mathew and his team's contribution in developing, implementing, and coordinating the CERT training geared for deaf and hard of hearing Missourians is worthy of recognition. The testament to the caliber of their efforts has brought motivation, personal growth, and valuable resources to deaf and hard of hearing training participants.



Putting Out Small Fires



Conducting Basic Medical Procedures



Conducting Light Search and Rescue Operations

SEMA and GCCC are looking to fund another CERT training for deaf and hard of hearing individuals! Interested individuals who wish to receive announcements and information for this future training may contact Kim Davis, MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist at Kim.Davis@mcdhh.mo.gov or (573) 526-5205 (TTY/VP/V).

Mark Your Calendars!

16th Annual Missouri Interpreters Conference / Empowerment Symposium
September 25-27, 2009
 Holiday Inn Executive Center
 Columbia, Missouri

Commission Members

Paul Blicharz, Chair
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Organization

Michael Boyd, Vice-Chair
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member

Thomas Bastean
Dept. of Elem. & Sec. Ed/MSD

Lisa Geier
Professional—Audiology

Leslie Hall
Business Community

Emily Northcraft
Deaf/Hard of Hearing Member

Gloriana Pack
Interpreter

Antonina Wilson
Parent of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing Child

Vacant
Local Public School Administrator

What's Up at MCDHH?

Feeling out of the loop? Information passing you by? MCDHH administers two listservs that can help you be “in the know”! Announcements and reports from MCDHH are distributed on MCDHH-L and MO-TERPS-L.

- **MCDHH-L**—MCDHH-L is a listserv that was created to distribute information and action alerts from the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Many of these announcements are related to legislative activity and/or MCDHH business.
- **MO-TERPS-L**—MO-TERPS-L is a listserv that distributes information geared toward interpreters. For example, information is sent concerning future workshops to be offered for interpreters by MCDHH, the annual Missouri Interpreters Conference and job announcements in the state of Missouri.



If you would like to subscribe to either or both of these list serves, please send an e-mail to: mcdhh@mcdhh.mo.gov.



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